

AND TWO POINTS FROM CASUALS

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Corinthian Casuals 1

AFTER being a goal down in 12 minutes, Wycombe Wanderers saved face through two grand goals by leading marksman Paul Bates, and won two more points in their struggle for survival in the race for Isthmian League honours.

Casuals' goal, a good effort by Moore, seemed to inject some life into Wycombe's aimless play, and after nine minutes Bates equalised.

But the first-half will not go into the records as one of outstanding football. Wanderers wasted many chances, and could have been well on the way to catching up on some of that poor goal average by the interval.

Wycombe were once again without skipper Dave Bradshaw who had not recovered from a last-minute knock received at Dulwich last week, and Peter Roystone played at right back.

This made way for Stuart Thompson, who had been dropped, to come back into the side at inside right. He had a better game put in a lot of work in front of his own crowd, obviously anxious to please.

Playing with five forwards up, Wanderers looked more dangerous in attack. Had all the openings that were created been taken, they would have had at least four goals by half-time.

Thompson failed to get his head to a well-placed Roystone centre; Horseman hit the bar and Merrick headed the rebound into the terrace; and Merrick put one in the net but was offside.

Bates put Wanderers ahead after the interval with a fine goal. Making ground on the right he beat his full-back and cut in,

Making as if to centre the ball he changed direction and shot home with his left-foot.

Wycombe's football was far more fluent in the second period, but big centre-half Joy, the son of former Arsenal player Bernard Joy, dominated the Casuals' penalty area.

Casuals had gone ahead after a period of lifeless play with atrocious passing by both sides. The speedy Peter Phillips made ground on the right and Moore, who switched wings, was on hand to stab his pass home.

Bates showed his class in equalising. He cleverly controlled a difficult bouncing pass from Horseman, and coolly shot over the 'keeper's head.

Wanderers missed more chances in the second-half. Samuels, who had a better game, had hard luck with a diving header, and then headed a free-kick straight at James. A Horseman effort was booted off the line by Joy, and Bates should have had a penalty when he was downed by the advancing Casuals' goalkeeper.

Again the Wycombe defence was solid, with half-backs Baker, Rundle and Gale outstanding, and Maskell, in goal, dealing effectively with everything.

Wycombe.—J. Maskell; P. Roystone, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Samuels, S. Thompson, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.